

JOHNNY STARDUST

BOOM -
MY HEAD!

STARDUST
NEEDED A LITTLE
PERCUSSION TO
COME AROUND,
BOSS!

WELL, IF
IT HADN'T OUR
MAN MANAGED
HIMSELF

FORGIVE THE
USE OF FORCE TO
GET YOU HERE,
STARDUST BUT
IT WAS MOST
URGENT

I HAVE AN
IMPORTANT
BUSINESS
PROPOSITION
TO -

I TOLD YOUR
PLANNERS, I
MAINTAIN

I DON'T LIKE
YOU OR THE
KIND OF
PEOPLE
YOU DO
BUSINESS
WITH!

STARDUST, YOUR WORTHWHILE
DON'T INTEREST
ME IN THE
LEAST!

THE FACT IS I NEED A PILOT
OF UNIFORM, SKILL AND DRIVING
FOR THREE SPECIAL FLIGHTS

SINCE YOUR OWN PLANE
WAS DESTROYED I THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT BE WILING TO DO
THIS - FOR A PRICE,
OF COURSE!

BUT I DON'T NEED YOUR
JOB, WANTS - INSTEAD, I
WILL REPLACE MY PLANE
AND STARDUST AIR SERVICE
WILL FLY AGAIN!

BOOM! AN "BOSS" HAS
TAKEN CARE OF THAT
POSSIBILITY!

MEANWHILE - OFFICIALS ARE
CHECKING THE RECORDS OF
"JOHNNY" - WON'T IT BE
WORTHY?

I'LL
BE
DOO
DOO
THERE GOES
STARDUST'S LICENSE,
INSURANCE AND
ALL

CONTINUED

JOHNNY STARDUST

VERNON RIECK

JOHNNY'S ESCAPE PLAN DEPENDED ON THE 'COMMIE' MAJOR AGREEING TO FLY...

THAT'S RIGHT, YANKEE! THERE IS **NO** NEED TO TAKE TO THE AIR AFTER ALL!

BUT, MAJOR, YOU SAID THERE IS ONLY **ONE** RADIO STATION YOUR FORCES HAVEN'T DESTROYED — AND IT IS **MILES AWAY**...

...HOW CAN HIS EXCELLENCY TELL HIS PEOPLE TO **LAY DOWN** THEIR **ARMS** AND **ACCEPT** YOUR GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY IF WE DON'T **FLY** THERE **AT ONCE**!?

AH! MY TECHNICIAN TELLS ME YOUR PLANE CARRIES A **LOW** FREQUENCY RADIO TRANSMITTER...

SO IT DOES!

OH, OH...

HE TELLS ME **IT'S** AIRWAVES FOLLOW THE CURVATURE OF THE EARTH AND **CAN** REACH OUR TRANSMITTER MILES AWAY —

—THERE YOUR VOICE WILL BE RELAYED TO YOUR PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TOLD YOU ARE STILL **ALIVE** AND WILL SPEAK TO THEM...

OW! THE KING SAID HE'D SOONER **DIE** THAN DO THIS! I TOLD THE MAJOR HE **WOULD** AS PART OF MY **ESCAPE PLAN**... WHICH SURE HAS **BACKFIRED**!

AND NOW, YOUR HIGHNESS, IF YOU WILL GET IN THE PLANE — MY TECHNICIAN HAS SIGNALLED ALL IS READY FOR YOU TO SPEAK...

AH! JUST **ONE** THING MORE! SHOULD YOU SAY ANYTHING **WRONG**... YOUR EXECUTION **WILL** TAKE PLACE... —INSTANTLY!

JOHNNY STARDUST

by **VERNON RIECK**

L.A. INTERNATIONAL'S CLOSED IN BY FOG, DOC, - THE POLICE ESCORT IS WAITING AT BURBANK -



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-ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BEAT THE FOG -



AS A GREAT BRAIN SURGEON, YOU ARE VALUABLE TO MANY! SHALL WE RISK IT - OR TURN BACK?

MR. STARDUST, A CHILD, THAT MAY DIE IF I DON'T OPERATE TONIGHT, IS WAITING FOR ME.



I UNDERSTAND, DOC! - HANG ON! HERE WE GO -

OH, OH - FOG'S CLOSING IN ON THE FIELD FAST...



WHILE ON THE GROUND -

DON'T DO IT, JOHNNY - PULL UP !!

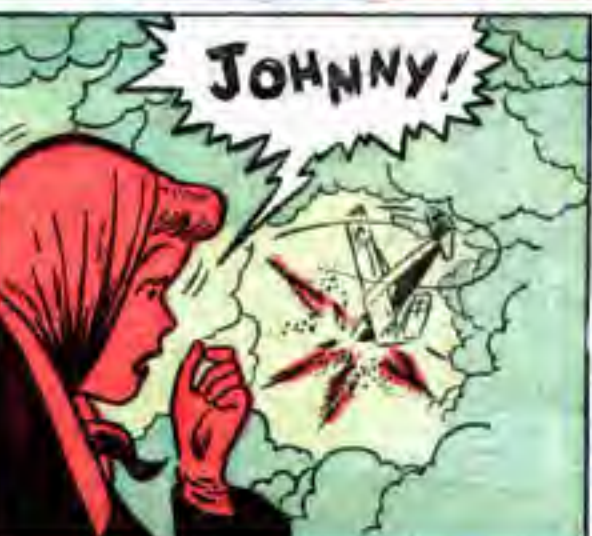
PLEASE!!!



CAN'T SEE THE BLASTED -



JOHNNY!



- SUDDENLY -



OKAY, DOC?

I'M ALIVE -! WHAT MORE CAN I ASK?



WELL - SHALL WE TOAST MARSHMALLOWS, TIPPY?

HOW CAN YOU JOKE, JOHNNY? THERE GOES YOUR ONLY MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD UP IN FLAMES!

STARDUST AIR SERVICE HANGAR

JUST WHAT MR. MANTIS HAS BEEN WAITING FOR..... LET'S GO !!



JOHNNY STARDUST

THE DARING ESCAPE OF **TROY MANTIS** WAS CARRIED OUT BY TWO HENCHMEN WHO WERE KILLED IN A GUNBATTLE WITH DETECTIVES.

COME NOW, STARDUST. SURELY YOU DON'T REALLY THINK THAT! HOLD IT - DON'T MOVE OR TIPPY GETS IT FIRST!

WHAT DO YOU WANT OF US?

YOUR BOY FRIEND AND I HAD A DEAL - HE STILL OWES ME SOME FLYING TIME! - PLEASE, RAISE YOUR HANDS!

THE POLICE WILL HAVE THIS TOWN TIED UP TIGHT! MANTIS WON'T BE LOOSE LONG!

MANTIS

- THAT'S BETTER! - ALL YOU HAVE TO DO, STARDUST, IS FLY ME OUT FROM UNDER THE COPS' COLLECTIVE NOSES!

YOU'RE MAD! WITH THE DRAGNET THE POLICE HAVE THROWN OUT FOR YOU - IT WOULD BE SUICIDE FOR ALL OF US!

FROM WHERE I STAND, STARDUST, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE MUCH CHOICE!!

WATER - AT JOHNNY'S APARTMENT -

YOUR CLOTHES FIT FINE, JOHN - THEY MAKE ME A NEW MAN!

- ONLY ON THE OUTSIDE, MANTIS!

RUBBER CEMENT AND MY HAIR CLIPPINGS MAKE A CONVINCING BEARD, EH? - OF COURSE, SHOE POLISH DOESN'T MAKE THE BEST HAIR DYE - BUT, IT'LL DO -

THIS PHONY DRIVER'S LICENSE I ONCE HAD MADE WILL ROUND OUT MY DISGUISE.

MY, MY - I ALWAYS WANTED TO MEET A SELF MADE MAN -

VERY FUNNY! - THERE - NOW LET'S HEAD FOR THE AIRFIELD AND COMPLETE MY ESCAPE -

YOU IN THERE, STARDUST? IT'S INSPECTOR RUDD!!

BE SURE TO SEE NEXT WEEK'S EXCITING EPISODE OF "JOHNNY STARDUST"!

JOHNNY STARDUST

WHILE FLYING A FAMED BIRAN AIRCRAFT FOR AN EMERGENCY OPERATION, STARR TRIES TO LAUGH IN A THICK FOREIGN ACCENT UP.

WE'LL TIFTY NO SERVE, VACH HAS MY BUSINESS GO UP IN SMOKE - LET'S FIND THAT LOUPO CAR AND GET THE DOL ON HIS WIFE!



I DEEPLY REGRET THE LOSS OF YOUR PLANE, MR. STARDUST -



IT WOULD BE A SMALL PRICE TO PAY IF YOU CAN SAVE THAT BOY, DOC!

-INSURANCE CAN REPLACE MY PLANE, BUT NOT A HUMAN LIFE! GET GOING NOW - AND GOOD LUCK!



WE'LL TALK PRINTER, NOW ABOUT A HOT CUP TO MELTAN US BWT?



I SURE COULD USE A LITTLE OF BOTH!

AND THEN TO BETTER GIVE MY INSURANCE AGENT A CALL -



OH, STARDUST! WE'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU -

I SAVED MANTIS' EMBLEM!



WAIT FOR ME INSIDE, TIFTY! I'LL ONLY BE A MINUTE -

WE'LL 'CHILLER' WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?



MR. MANTIS HEARD OF YOUR MISFORTUNE, STARDUST -

MY MY, BAD NEWS (222) TENSE, FAST!



-HE WISHES TO SEE YOU TONIGHT ABOUT A CERTAIN BUSINESS PROPOSITION!

MANTIS DOESN'T CONDUCT THE LINE OF BUSINESS I CARE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH I DON'T WISH TO SEE HIM, NOW OR LATER!



AND LATER -



-IT SEEMS MR. STARDUST HAD TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WAS YOU, MR. MANTIS, WHO WISHED TO SEE HIM!



EXCELLENT, 'CHILLER'!

CONTINUED -